

**Sermon on the Mount 5: Money and Anxiety  
(8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)**

**Isaiah 49:14-15—I Will Never Forget You**

1. God will never forsake his people; more faithful than a mother for her child!

**Psalm 62—Rest in God Alone, My Soul**

1. For “God alone” my souls waits or “at rest” (v. 1)
2. God is my “rock” and “my salvation” and my “fortress” (v. 2, 6)
3. Trust in him “at *all times*” (v. 8)

**Matthew 6:24-34—Money and Anxiety**

1. No one can serve two masters:
  - a. “Serve”: Greek *douleuō*, “be a slave” to
  - b. “Masters”: Greek *kyrios*, “lord”
  - c. Literally: “No one can be a slave to two lords...”
2. You cannot serve God and Mammon (Aramaic, “wealth” or “property”)
3. Jesus Commands: “Do not be anxious about your life”
  - a. Food and Drink
  - b. Clothing
4. Examples from Creation:
  - a. Birds of the Air: God feeds them; “Are you not of more value than they?”
  - b. Lilies of the Field: God clothes them; “Will he not clothe you?”
  - c. “You of little faith/trust (*pistis*)”
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Time: “Do not be anxious”
  - a. Gentiles/Pagans: “seek” after food and clothing
  - b. Jesus’ Followers: “seek *first*” the kingdom and his righteousness
  - c. Augustine: seek temporal things not for their own sake, but for the kingdom
6. 3<sup>rd</sup> Time: “Do not be anxious about tomorrow”
  - a. Tomorrow will be anxious for itself
  - b. Let the day’s own “evil” “misfortune” “trouble” (*kakia*) be enough for the day

**The Love of Money**

For the love of money is the root of all evils... (1 Timothy 6:10)

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never fail you nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

**The Catechism on Money-Worship**

1. “Idolatry” is not only “false pagan worship”
2. Man commits “idolatry” when he worships *anything* in place of God
3. Examples: power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, *money* (CCC 2113)

## The Catechism on Trust in Divine Providence

1. God does not “abandon” his creatures to themselves
2. “At every moment,” he “upholds and sustains them in being” (CCC 301)

### Questions for Discussion and Reflection (8<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A)

1. We saw in the video that Jesus says that a person cannot be “a slave” to money and serve God. What are some ways that a person can become a “slave” to money? Or that money can become their “lord”? Have you ever known anyone like that, who gave themselves entirely to the pursuit of wealth?

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2. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus *commands* us three times not to be “anxious” about food, clothing. But is this really possible? What are some practical ways that we can get anxiety under control? (Hint: the answer lies in trying to live out the command to “seek first” the kingdom of heaven).

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3 In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus also commands us not to be anxious about the future (“tomorrow”). Why shouldn’t we be anxious about tomorrow? Is this realistic?

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### For Further Study

1. John Chrysostom, *On Wealth and Poverty* (St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1999). A classic treatise on the role of wealth in the lives of Christians, including laypeople.
2. Saint Augustine, *The Lord’s Sermon on the Mount* (Newman Press, 1948), pp. 134-41. A classic commentary on Jesus’ preaching about money and anxiety, and how to seek first the kingdom.